
April 2002 - Injury Prevention Newsletter

If you need an excuse to celebrate - May is a very busy month:

- * April 29-May 4 Lightning Safety Awareness Week
- * April 29-May 4 National Tire Safety Week
- * May 5-May 11 National SAFE KIDS Week
- * May 19-May 25 National EMS Week
- * May 20-May 27 National Buckle Up America Week
- * May 22 National EMSC Day
- * Nobody Gets Hurt Month - as proclaimed by Gov. Knowles
- * National Physical Fitness and Sports Month
- * National Bike Safety Month
- * And, of course, do not forget your mother on May 12

Alaska News and Resource

1. Nobody Gets Hurt Month
2. Lightning Safety Awareness Week
3. Wildfire season in Alaska
4. Factors Associated with Pilot Fatalities in Work-Related Crashes

National News and Resource

5. CPSC Recall Round-up 2002
6. National Tire Safety Week
7. Top 10 list of foods to avoid when seated behind the wheel
8. Cancelled Conference on Child Passenger Safety
9. NHTSA proposes revisions to Child Restraint Standard

Miscellaneous

10. Product recalls and safety information

1. **Nobody Gets Hurt Month:** Governor Tony Knowles has proclaimed May 2002 as Nobody Gets Hurt Month. In his proclamation he, on behalf of the State of Alaska, commended the efforts of the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development and the Denali Safety Council and stated that Alaska is committed to improving the safety and health of all Alaska residents. Finally, he encouraged all citizens to support and participate in community activities that elevate awareness on the importance of safety. For more information you can log on to the Denali Safety Council's website: www.denalisafetycouncil.org
2. **Lightning Safety Awareness Week:** Lightning strikes in all 50 states according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). It is the second deadliest weather-related killer in the U.S. averaging 73 deaths per year (there have been none in Alaska in the last 10 years according to NOAA records). During this second annual Lightning Safety Awareness Week NOAA is teaming up lightning experts with educators to increase awareness of the risks posed by lightning. Their website: www.noaa.gov offers lightning safety tips. The Weather Channel at www.weather.com is also offering a safety series on lightning. Finally, you can access Alaska's weather service at: www.arh.noaa.gov to track not only lightning strikes but all other weather as well.

3. **Wildfire Season:** As reported in the Kenai Peninsula Online, the State of Alaska Division of Forestry reminds us that wildfire season is fast approaching and offers steps people can take to reduce the risk of causing a fire. They offer such suggestions as: Never leave a burn pile unattended, remove tree limbs from near roof and chimney, and if you smoke - use an ashtray. For more information visit: www.dnr.state.ak.us/forestry and click on Firewise.
4. **Factors Associated with Pilot Fatalities in Work-Related Crashes:** Conway G, Moran K, Bensyl D. MMWR 2002; 51(16): 347-349. During 1990-1999 aircraft crashes (675) caused 107 deaths among workers classified as civilian pilots. This is equivalent to 410 fatalities per 100,000 pilots each year, approximately five times the death rate of all U.S. pilots and approximately 100 times the death rate for all U.S. workers. Aviation crashes are now the leading cause of occupational death in Alaska exceeding the fishing and logging industries. This study looked at all the conditions (weather, instruments, aircraft type, etc) which caused the crash and/or the fatality. Of particular note: The estimated likelihood of a pilot dying was significantly lower when the pilot used a shoulder restraint.
5. **CPSC Recall Round-up 2002:** It's time for spring cleaning and the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) is urging us all to join its "recall round-up" of 12 hazardous products still found in millions of homes. The goal of this round-up is to convince consumers to throw away, repair, or replace these hazardous products. You can get a complete list of these products at: www.cpsc.gov According to CPSC Acting Chairman Thomas Moore, "We can get dangerous products off store shelves, but the real challenge is to get them out of families' homes." Can we accept Chairman Moore's challenge?
6. **National Tire Safety Week:** April 29-May 4 is National Tire Safety Week sponsored by the Rubber Manufacturers Association. The campaign is titled: "Be Tire Smart - Play Your PART". PART stands for pressure, alignment, rotation, and tread. To get more information and a copy of their consumer education program log on to: www.rma.org
7. **Top 10 list of foods to avoid when seated behind the wheel:** As published in the San Francisco Chronicle - Hagerty Classic Insurance of Michigan has kept a list of "food wrecks". It's hard to believe that it has finally come to this but results of a Response Insurance National Drivers Habits Survey found 76% of drivers preoccupied with something other than the road and for 57% of them it was food - spilling it more than eating it. So there is the Top 10 list of foods to avoid when seated behind the wheel:
 10. Chocolate
 9. Soft drinks
 8. Jelly-filled doughnuts
 7. Fried chicken
 6. Barbecue
 5. Juicy hamburgers
 4. Chili-covered anything
 3. Tacos
 2. Hot soup

AND the #1 food to avoid when behind the wheel: Hot coffee

- 8. Cancelled Conference on Child Passenger Safety:** If you registered to attend the ICIP Child Passenger Safety Technician Conference (April 21-April 24 in Sacramento) that was cancelled, please read on: The Attorney General of Wisconsin has turned ICIP's case over to the FBI and White Collar Crime Bureau/Department of Justice. If you have not been paid by ICIP please file complaints with:
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|------------------|----------------------------|
| Mr. Jerry Hruska | Mr. David Collins |
| FBI | White Collar Crimes Bureau |
| P.O. Box 185 | Department of Justice |
| Wausau, WI 55401 | P.O. Box 7857 |
| 715-842-2666 | Madison, WI 53707-7857 |
- 9. NHTSA proposes revisions to Child Restraint Standard:** The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) has proposed multiple revisions to the federal safety standard for child restraint systems. "These changes will make our safety standard more representative of current vehicle designs, so that our evaluation of the protection afforded by child safety seats will more accurately reflect the actual conditions in which child safety seats are now used." Said Jeffrey W. Runge, M.D., NHTSA Administrator. NHTSA also announced an advance notice of proposed rulemaking (ANPRM) requesting advice and comments from the public on ways to improve protection for children in passenger vehicles that are struck from the side. With this announcement, the United States will be the first country in the world to start rulemaking to require protection of children in side crashes. To view the complete proposal or the ANPRM log on to: www.hntsa.gov/cars/rules.rulings. Comments can be submitted to: <http://dms.dot.gov> within 60 days.
- 10. Product recalls and safety information:** The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission tracks injuries or deaths in over 15,000 consumer products. To report a dangerous product or a product-related injury, call CPSC's hotline at 800-638-2772 or CPSC's teletypewriter at 800-638-8270. Other information and product recalls are available on their website: www.cpsc.gov.

This message has been compiled by the Section of Community Health and EMS (CHEMS), Alaska Division of Public Health and sent to subscribers of the AK-Prev and AHELP list-serves. It has also been sent as a "bcc" to others in Alaska including Public Health Centers, SAFE KIDS coalitions, Native Health Organizations, and regional EMS Councils and Coordinators who may be interested and active in injury prevention and health promotion. The purpose is to share resources, breaking news, training opportunities, product recalls, and opinions to help prevent injuries to Alaskans. Feedback and contributions are encouraged. Contributions can be directed to Karen Lawfer: karen_lawfer@health.state.ak.us

Link for the AK-Prev and AK-EMSC list serve: http://chems.alaska.gov/ems_list_servers.htm

Link for AHELP list serve: <http://www.auroraweb.com/ahec>